

REMARKS

Claims 1-132 are pending in the present application. In the forgoing amendments, claims 1, 19, 44-52, 58-61, 63-65, 82, 88, and 95 have been amended; claims 43 and 81 have been cancelled without prejudice; and new claims 125-132 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims of the application as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Decision on Appeal, the rejection of claims 1-124 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, was reversed; and the rejection of claims 1-43, 48-58, 62, 63, 65-81, and 86-94 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) was sustained.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-43, 48-58, 62, 63, 65-81, and 86-94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tiedemann, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,287), hereinafter referred to as Tiedemann, in view of Schwendeman (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,537), hereinafter referred to as Schwendeman.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites “...providing for each respective message a respective signature, the respective signature being separate from and generated by hashing the respective message...” (emphasis added). Independent claims 63 and 65, as amended, each recite “...generating a signature for the message capsule, the signature being generated by hashing the message capsule...” (emphasis added). Neither of Tiedemann and Schwendeman, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests claim 1, 63, or 65.

Applicants note that in the Final Action dated 5/7/2002 (based on which the appeal was filed), the Examiner cited a section in Tiedemann as disclosing the use of a hash function when assigning slot numbers (col. 2 lines 48-52). The cited section states that “In a system having multiple receivers, each receiver is pseudorandomly assigned a slot in its slot cycle. An identification number uniquely associated with the received may be provided to a hash function, which pseudorandomly produces the assigned slot number.” Applicants respectfully point out

that the cited section does not teach or suggest generating a signature for the message (or message capsule) by hashing the message (or message capsule), as recited in claim 1, 63, or 65.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 63, and 65 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 2-42, 48-58, 62, 65-81, and 86-94 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 63, and 65, and therefore are allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Decision on Appeal place claims 64 and 95-124 in condition for allowance. In the forgoing amendments, independent claims 64 and 95 have been amended to remove unnecessary limitations and to ensure that each claim is directed to a single entity (or infringer). Applicants submit that amended claims 64 and 95 are also allowable.

Claims 44-47, 59-61, and 82-85 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of these claims each dependent from one of independent claims 1, 63 and 65, they are allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1, 63, and 65 are allowable, as stated above.

New Claims

Applicants submit that new claims 125-132 are patentable over the cited references.

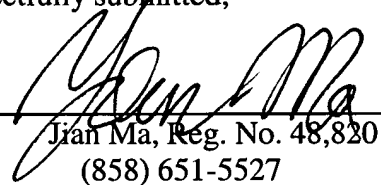
REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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